

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1 (Currently amended). A method of manufacturing a titanium oxide powder material comprising:

mixing a titanium oxide powder, a solvent and a barium-containing material soluble in the solvent to prepare a titanium oxide slurry;

removing the solvent from the slurry; and

heating the resulting solvent-free mixture so that a barium compound is present on the surfaces of the titanium oxide powder particles.

2 (Currently amended). A method of manufacturing a titanium oxide powder material according to Claim 1, wherein the heating is such that the barium compound on the surfaces of the particles in the heating step has a thickness of about 3 to 30 nm.

3 (Currently amended). A method of manufacturing a titanium oxide powder material according to Claim 1, wherein the heating is such that the barium compound on the surfaces of the particles in the heating step has a thickness of about 5 to 15 nm.

4 (Currently amended). A method of manufacturing a titanium oxide powder material according to claim 1, wherein said heating is at a temperature of about 150°C or less.

5 (Currently amended). A method of manufacturing a titanium oxide powder material according to claim 1, wherein said heating is at a temperature of about 150-600°C.

6 (Currently amended). A method of manufacturing a titanium oxide powder material according to claim 1, wherein said heating is at a temperature of about 600°C or more.

7 (Currently amended). A method of manufacturing a barium titanate comprising mixing a powder material according to claim 1 with a barium compound powder to form a powder mixture, further comprising and calcining the powder mixture.

8 (Original). A method of manufacturing a barium titanate powder according to Claim 7, wherein the barium content of the titanium oxide powder is in the range of 0.001 to 0.1 mol per mol of titanium.

9 (Original). A method of manufacturing a barium titanate powder according to Claim 7, wherein the titanium oxide powder has a specific surface area of about 5 m<sup>2</sup>/g or more.

10 (Original). A method of manufacturing a barium titanate powder according to Claim 7, wherein the titanium oxide powder has a specific surface area of about 10 m<sup>2</sup>/g or more.

11 (Currently amended). A method of manufacturing a barium titanate powder according to Claim 10, wherein the heating is such that the barium compound on the surfaces of the particles in the heating step has a thickness of about 3 to 30 nm.

12 (Currently amended). A method of manufacturing a barium titanate powder according to Claim 11, wherein the heating is such that the barium compound on the surfaces of the particles in the heating step has a thickness of about 5 to 15 nm.

13 (Original). A method of manufacturing a barium titanate powder according to claim 12, wherein said heating is at a temperature of about 150°C or less.

14 (Original). A method of manufacturing a barium titanate powder according to claim 12, wherein said heating is at a temperature of about 150-600°C.

15 (Original). A method of manufacturing a barium titanate powder according to claim 12, wherein said heating is at a temperature of about 600°C or more.

16 (New). A method of manufacturing a barium titanate comprising providing a powder mixture of a titanium dioxide powder having a barium compound on it surface with a barium compound powder, and calcining the powder mixture.

17 (New). A method of manufacturing a barium titanate according to claim 16, wherein the barium content of the titanium dioxide powder having a barium compound on it surface is of about 0.001 to 0.1 mol per mol of titanium.

18 (New). A method of manufacturing a barium titanate according to claim 17, wherein the titanium oxide powder has a specific surface area of about 5 m<sup>2</sup>/g or more.

19 (New). A method of manufacturing a barium titanate according to claim 18, wherein the barium compound on the surfaces of the titanium dioxide particles has a thickness of about 3 to 30 nm.

20 (New). A method of manufacturing a barium titanate according to claim 19, wherein the barium compound on the surfaces of the titanium dioxide particles has a thickness of about 5 to 15 nm and the titanium oxide powder has a specific surface area of about 10 m<sup>2</sup>/g or more.